

Call for Expert Reviewers

State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program

Reviewers across many fields serve a critical role in the public and private grantmaking processes. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recognizes the value and importance of these expert reviewers and is seeking qualified individuals to serve in the technical review process for the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program as funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

WHO

We are seeking qualified reviewers with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Broadband and telecommunications infrastructure
- Budgeting
- Project Management
- Information systems
- Visualization tools

WHAT

Reviewers will independently read, score, and provide written comments on grant proposals submitted to NTIA from applicants seeking Federal funding under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. This is a competitive, merit-based matching grant program that implements the joint purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act. The Program will provide up to approximately \$240 million in grants to assist states or their designees to develop state-specific data on the deployment levels and adoption rates of broadband services. These data, including publicly available state-wide broadband maps, will also be used to develop the comprehensive, interactive national broadband map that NTIA is required by the Recovery Act to create and make publicly available by February 17, 2011.

No travel is required to serve as a reviewer. The reading period for reviewing and scoring the applications will take place between August - September, 2009. Within two weeks of receipt of grant applications, reviewers will be asked to read and submit initial scores. Federal staff will facilitate conference calls directly with each reviewer after this two-week period to discuss their scores.

Expert reviewers serve during one early stage of the grant selection process and their scoring will be included in NTIA's evaluation when the Agency selects grant recipients. More information about the grant review process and the role of peer/expert reviewers can be found in the Notice of Funds Availability for the Broadband Data and Development Grant Program available at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/fmnotices/2009/FR_BroadbandMappingNOFA_090708.pdf. Additionally, first-time reviewers may be interested in reviewing the many grant programs that utilize the peer review process, such as those at the U.S. Department of Education, National Institutes of Health and others.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to reviewing applications, reviewers also may be required to participate in an orientation conference call session prior to evaluating the applications. Reviewers also must be available for a panel conference call. Please note that each reviewer selected will be required to sign and submit a Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Certification.

IF INTERESTED

If you would like to be considered as a reviewer, please e-mail a copy of your current resume and the following information, if not included in the resume: preferred mailing address, home and office telephone numbers, fax number, e-mail address, to the Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, broadbandmapping@ntia.doc.gov. In addition, please submit a signed copy of the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Certification for the State Broadband Data and Development Program, which may be downloaded from the Broadband Mapping section of www.broadbandusa.gov.